

# THE SKAGWAY NEWS.

August 28, 2020

Skagway, Alaska

\$1.50

There's a new ranger in town

Meet the Klondike Gold Rush superintendent **PAGE 4**

Rescue on the Taiya

Stranded canoeist lifted to safety **PAGE 3**

Why are salmon shrinking?

Studies give some idea **PAGE 12**

## Emergency protocols for COVID-19 released

By Gretchen Wehmhoff

Skagway's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) released its plan of action should a COVID-19 case show up in Skagway. The plan, pulled together by the members of the EOC with input from the public and assembly, focuses on three general scenarios.

Scenario A resembles the current situation with no known cases in Skagway. Protocols remind residents of the importance of good hand-washing, covering sneezes and coughs and to avoid touching one's face. It also outlines the current practices of wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and getting tested if sick.

Scenario B comes into play when a case of COVID-19 shows up in Skagway, but there is no known community contact or the case is related to travel to Skagway and the person had no community contact.

In this case, the EOC would direct the borough manager to notify the community that a case has been detected, detailing that there was no known contact within the community. According to the protocols, there is the assumption that, with a high level of confidence, the infected person has been sheltering in place or quarantined until they receive testing results.

The third, and most action-oriented scenario, C, is in anticipation of a community spread of the virus. In this case, the EOC would notify the town and implement a

*see page two*



Masks are required in Skagway's City Hall as well as other municipal buildings.

*Photo by Reba Hylton*

## Masks required in muni buildings and during school sports

By Melinda Munson

Ordinance 20-16, which passed its second reading unanimously on Aug. 20, requires cloth face coverings in all municipal facilities, including Skagway City School when social distancing is not possible. Despite a push from some community members, the ordinance does not require face coverings in private businesses and non-municipality buildings.

The ordinance was proposed by Mayor Andrew Cremata.

"Again, I want to stress that this ordinance was drafted for one reason -- liability. The school board is autonomous and should always remain so," Cremata said.

The ordinance goes against school board wishes. In a letter dated Aug. 5, Superinten-

dent Josh Coughran asked that the school be removed from the proposed language.

As passed, the new guideline requires that Skagway School athletes cover their nose and mouth during practices when within six feet of other individuals.

Nate Jennings, high school girls basketball coach, testified at the beginning of the meeting, asking the assembly to make an exception for after school athletics.

"I'm pro-mask but there's got to be exceptions," he said. Jennings pointed out that the Alaska School Activities Association (ASSA) provides a waiver and release that would protect the municipality from lawsuits.

"I highly recommend you guys add an amendment. We

need to put the kids first," Jennings said.

No other citizens present testified against the mask ordinance, but there were several letters from concerned citizens, asking for a mask exemption.

Assemblymember Orion Hanson took issue with Jennings's perspective.

"I see major leaguers wearing masks playing center field," Orion said, adding that there are "entire states not allowing kids in school."

Hanson said the assembly needed to focus on "what's good not only for the individual athlete but what's good for the whole community."

Both Hanson and Assemblymember Steve Burnham pointed out that the ASSA waiver was presented that day

and had not been vetted by the municipality's attorney.

"I don't see how it protects the municipality itself," Burnham said.

Superintendent Coughran is unaware of any other district in Southeast that requires masks during after school sports but he says the school's response to the new mandate is "compliance."

"One of the questions was whether or not it (Ordinance 20-16) was overreach. By the letter of the law, the municipality has the right to enact such a policy," Coughran said. "Our Smart Start Program is right in line with everything that is in that ordinance," he added.

Coughran hopes to work with the assembly and "find some middle ground."

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[editor@skagwaynews.com](mailto:editor@skagwaynews.com)  
[sales@skagwaynews.com](mailto:sales@skagwaynews.com)

Publishers  
Melinda Munson  
Gretchen Wehmhoff

Managing Editor  
Melinda Munson

Production Editor/Sales  
Gretchen Wehmhoff

Contributors

Circulation Assistants  
Chris Kuhn, Danielle Authier

Editor Emeritus  
William J. "Jeff" Brady

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# Without cruise traffic, UA, NOAA observe whales in Southeast

University of Alaska

JUNEAU -- Minimal tourism in Juneau has created an opportunity for researchers to study the effects on humpback whales. Researchers are collecting data to create a baseline of physiology and behavior of the whales, in the unprecedented absence of whale-watching tourism due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Heidi Pearson, Associate Professor of marine biology at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), remarked, "When I learned back in March that the cruise ship season would be postponed or even suspended for the summer, I realized we had this incredible opportunity to study whales in the absence of high levels of vessel traffic." Pearson is the principal investigator of the study, working on the project with researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF).

In Juneau, the whale watching industry has tripled over the past 20 years. There have been concerns about what this means for hump-



Breaching whale --- NMFS permit 14122

photo by Heidi Pearson

back whales in the area. Recent studies have shown that humpbacks may be finding ways to avoid marine traffic including breathing more rapidly, changing directions and increasing their speed.

Dr. Shannon Atkinson, a co-principal investigator of the study and a professor at the UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences noted, "The goal of the project is to determine humpback whale presence, local abundance and residency patterns. We'll

examine the blubber biopsies and respiratory blow samples to measure steroid hormones associated with stress, like cortisol, corticosterone and aldosterone. We'll also analyze progesterone and testosterone to help identify sex and life-history status."

Juneau is a popular area for whale watching during the summer tourist season, most notably for humpbacks, which migrate to Alaska in the spring to feed and build up fat stores. The whales

then migrate to other Pacific Ocean locales like Hawaii and Mexico, using the tropical waters to breed and calve during the winter months.

The goal of the research is to inform guidelines for whale watching to ensure a sustainable industry. The project is funded by NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region, through a grant to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

## Skagway EOC sets protocol for COVID-19 infections

from front page

seven-day shelter in place for the entire community with increased community testing.

Ryan was not sure how the increase in testing would look, but assured that it would be safe and at no cost to residents.

Sheltering in place means no group gatherings would be permitted, residents should stay home with the exception of working in critical jobs, seeking health care or fresh air without contacting others.

In addition, all businesses and municipal facilities would be closed to public access while allowing curbside pick-up and delivery services only for non-critical businesses. For critical busi-

nesses, masks would be mandatory.

The critical businesses defined by the EOC are: Alaska Seaplanes, Fairway Market, Grizzly's, the post office, Skagway Hardware, You Say Tomato, Wells Fargo Bank and those businesses defined as critical by Res. No. 20-11R.

After the seven-day shelter-in-place, critical businesses may open for public access by appointment with an approved mitigation plan. Businesses may request a determination defining it as critical or non-critical from the borough manager.

Este Fielding, Dahl Memorial Clinic (DMC) director,

reports that there have been 444 tests given as of Aug. 26; all of them reported as negative. If a test did indicate a positive result, the clinic would notify the patient and the state epidemiological offices. The State of Alaska Division of Public Health would process all contact tracing.

Borough Manager, Brad Ryan, said the number of tests does not necessarily indicate a specific number of Skagway residents have been tested as it includes repeat testing, travelers and residents who are returning from travel.

The DMC schedules COVID-19 test appointments from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Dahl says the clinic schedule for testing fills quickly and suggests planning ahead.

The Skagway Traditional Council (STC) plans to assist

SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) in providing additional COVID testing on the weekends. The SEARHC tests will be self-swab tests with technician assistance. More details will be available from STC when the program begins.

Both Ryan and Fielding noted that if a positive test from a contact in Skagway comes from another testing facility, it will be up to the State to notify them.

Fielding, a member of the EOC, reported at the Aug. 6 assembly meeting that the Dahl staff was exhausted, but still dedicated to Skagway's public health.

"Skagway has been very proactive. We appreciate their response [to the pandemic], said Fielding.

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# Stranded paddler rescued from Taiya River by Coast Guard

By Melinda Munson

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) lowered a rescue swimmer via helicopter to assist a local resident, stranded on a grounded tree, in the swift current of Dyea's Taiya River on Aug. 22.

A man and woman were paddling the Taiya River in a tandem canoe when they hit a submerged tree and overturned. The man made it safely to shore. The woman floated about 1,000 meters until she managed to climb onto a fallen tree, located in the middle of the river. Both paddlers were wearing PFDs.

A kayaker following the canoe called the Skagway Fire Department (SFD) from a nearby residence at approximately 4:30 p.m.

After throw ropes failed to reach the victim, SFD Chief Joseph Rau determined the Coast Guard should be notified.

"With the heavy current we were unable to effect the rescue ourselves," he said.

Rau followed the chain of command by alerting the Alaska State Troopers who called in the USCG. Within 90 minutes, a USCG helicopter arrived from Sitka.

The SFD and volunteers lined up along the river in case the woman fell back into the water. The USCG successfully extracted the woman who was taken to the Skagway Airport where she was met by a SFD ambulance and transferred to Dahl Memorial Clinic.

According to Rau, the woman is in good condition.

Yukon Quest paddler and Dyea resident Jeff Brady had advice for boaters wanting to experience the Taiya River.

"That section of the Taiya River is very dicey, with dangerous sweepers and rocks, and is constantly changing. It should be scouted from the end of McDermott Lane by anyone, at any level, before paddling it," Brady said.

Rau agreed. "Someone is going to need to have some



A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter hovers over the rescue area on the Taiya River.

NPS Photo/J. Neumann

really high level skills on the river," he said, noting the strong undercurrents and submerged debris.

Jordan Neumann, Chief Ranger of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was on site during Saturday's rescue to assist.

The incident was cleared around 9 p.m.

"I'm glad it turned out well," Rau said. "I was very nervous with those currents."

## Property tax delinquency dates adjusted

By Melinda Munson

Skagwegians worried about high penalties for failure to pay taxes by Sept. 1 were granted some relief with the passage of Ordinance 20-17 on Aug. 26. The new ordinance allows the property tax delinquency date to be set by resolution to "mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Assemblymember Orion Hanson brought the ordinance forward after receiving a letter from business owner Jim Jewell. According to Hanson, under previous municipality code tied to state

statute, a 20% fine would be imposed on late property taxes, along with an additional 15% compounding rate "on top of that."

"The city needs taxes to go about its function to pay its bills and run our town but a 35% penalty rate, I find that to be not at all appropriate," Hanson said.

Finance Chair Steve Burnham suggested the special Aug. 26 meeting so the second reading would take place before property tax penalties came into effect.

After Ordinance 20-17 passed, the assembly unani-

mously approved Resolution 20-35R, which changed property tax delinquency dates as follows.

- Delinquency date for 2020 property taxes is Sept. 1, 2021.

- Delinquency date for 2021 property taxes is Jan. 1, 2022.

- Delinquency date for 2022 property taxes and subsequent years returns to Sept. 1 of the year the assessment is made.

Borough Clerk Emily Deach said a notice will be mailed to all property owners.

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## Editors' Column



By Melinda Munson

I am not a natural kayaker. This is a disappointment as I've dreamed of slicing through the Alaskan ocean in my own kayak since ninth grade. I've cherished this vision for over 20 years, until this summer, when Packer Expeditions offered free kayak classes to locals.

I don't know why I thought I would slide into the boat and effortlessly glide through Nahku Bay's choppy waters. This would not be historically feasible. In athletics, I have always needed to work hard to maintain mediocrity.

During high school I played sports: field hockey, basket-

## Rough waters; negotiating Nahku Bay and my life

ball, track. I definitely wasn't a star athlete -- I was mostly there for social interaction and to avoid chores at home. (I had seven siblings and no dishwasher.)

Throughout the first class, just like in high school, my brain comprehended what kayak guide Cowboy was saying, but somehow the message didn't travel to my limbs. Maybe because I was focusing too hard on keeping the boat upright. Usually when the guides demonstrated a new stroke, I was just trying to keep my kayak pointed forward. (I was also trying to figure out how Cowboy got his nickname, but no one would tell me.)

I emailed Wyatt before signing up for the second class: advanced strokes and water rescues.

"Are you sure I'm ready for this?" I wrote, reminding him how much I struggled in the beginner's course. "You'll be good!" he answered back. Well, sh%\$.  
I woke up on the second Sat-

urday, hoping the high winds and unrelenting rain from the night before would be enough to cancel the trip. But this is Skagway and weather is life.

There were just three students including myself. With four guides, and a PFD, that meant my chances of drowning were negligible. Add in the drysuits donated by the Rec Center, and I would probably survive the excursion.

Drysuits would have been cool in the 80s but they're the last thing I want to put on my 41-year-old, slightly claustrophobic body. I haven't worked out since I moved to Alaska four years ago and I've been visiting Kone Kompany frequently. You do the math.

One doesn't just put on a drysuit. You remove all jewelry and cautiously inch wrists and ankles through the rubber gaskets. Make sure to pee first, because as the guides mentioned more than once, it's not cool to urinate in the suits. (As a frequent pee-er, this was a concern,

so I didn't drink anything all day. It worked.)

I didn't really enjoy the two kayak classes. The Packer guides are charmingly deceptive. They are all smiles and patience, full of grace and skill. They make kayaking look easy.

News flash: they are professionals who trained hard. I on the other hand, sit in an office chair most of the day and am intimately familiar with Glacial Coffeehouse's pastries.

I made it halfway through the second class, before my toes, clad only in Texas, started to turn white and lose feeling after I tipped myself into the Pacific Ocean (on purpose) several times.

This was expected. I have Raynaud's Syndrome, a condition where the body thinks it's actually colder than it is. If I'm not careful, fingers or toes will lose their color and feeling. It can take days of warming to get back to normal. For me, it's not dangerous, just uncomfortable. I opted out after lunch break

and went home to cuddle in my bed with my electric blanket, Rosie.

Lucky for Skagway, I'm a much better author than kayaker.

Writing is all I've got going for me. Unlike many Skagwegians, I can't sing, or dance or produce a work of art. I am a good writer and a good critical thinker, which is possibly why I look like a stroke survivor when I'm paddling. I need to let go of myself, trust my body and move forward.

I plan on heading over to The Mountain Shop to buy some synthetic layers and booties in the event I have another opportunity to kayak. One day I might make guides Josh or Autumn proud, or at the very least, not embarrassed they taught me how to paddle. And eventually, hopefully, I'll learn how to let go.

## Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park gets new superintendent

By Melinda Munson

Angela Wetz had never visited Skagway when she accepted the position as interim superintendent of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (KGR).

She knew people who "raved about the park and the community" and had vacationed once in Anchorage. That was enough for Wetz to pack up her Toyota Tacoma with six weeks notice. She made the nearly five day journey with her 13-year-old daughter and her daughter's saxophone, which took up a disproportionate amount of space in Wetz' truck.

Formerly the superintendent of Fossil Butte National Monument in Kemmerer, Wyoming, Wetz replaced Jason Taylor who was appointed director of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, Montana. Taylor served as superintendent of KGR for one year.

Wetz competed for the KGR position and was thrilled to

be accepted.

"It's a hard year to go out and meet people but I'm excited," Wetz said.

Wetz's assignment will last up to a year. She is in charge of approximately 37 year-round National Park Service (NPS) employees in the Municipality of Skagway, as well as this summer's 12 seasonal hires. (Roughly 20 seasonal workers would be hired in a normal summer.)

Wetz anticipates that managing the risk of COVID-19 will be one of her biggest challenges. She is also tasked with "moving forward on the projects that have been planned," such as the construction to the visitor's center and the proposed improvements to the Dyea area of KGR.

Wetz is focusing on "flexibility" and promoting history. "We're all learning all the time," Wetz said. She plans to promote virtual park programs as she waits for Skagway's NPS museums and centers to reopen.

"We've been sites where

people come to heal," Wetz said. She expects national parks to be busier than ever when the threat of COVID-19 is diminished.

KGR, the most visited national park in Alaska, welcomed 1,116,161 guests in 2019. KGR is unique as parts of the park are within Skagway city limits. The NPS manages 22 buildings throughout downtown, as well as acres of wilderness in nearby Dyea.

It's commonplace to see an armed NPS patrol officer walking the streets of Skagway and several local businesses lease their buildings from the NPS.

With Wetz's COVID-19 tests complete, she's ready to get to work.

"I am honored to be entrusted with leading the outstanding staff at KGR and be a part of the preservation," she said.

Wetz said she looks forward to the opportunity to "connect with the community, park partners and tribal representatives."



Angela Wetz

Photo provided by Angela Wetz



## Virtual film festival of indigenous filmography

By Melinda Munson

Skagway Traditional Council board members were excited when Sara Kinjo-Hischer, tribal administrator, announced Vision Maker Media's First Indigenous Online Film Festival from Aug. 31 to Oct. 5.

"For educational purposes, I think it's huge, said Jaime Bricker, STC president. "This hopefully extends the reach."

The virtual festival will air over 30 films ranging from documentaries to animated features. The festival is free with registration. Films will be released weekly starting Aug. 31 at 8 a.m.

There are five genre categories. Each category is available for seven days before being replaced with new material.

"Blackfeet Boxing: Not Invisible" was recently added to the line-up. The documentary focuses on a boxing club for Native girls in Montana, where according to the Sovereign Bodies Institute, 100 indigenous women and girls were murdered or remain missing since Jan. 2018.

"There's been so many murders and people getting hurt on the reservation. I've never heard of a cop solving a crime," says one female elder.

"It's really important for us to teach our daughters to defend themselves so that they don't become a statistic," adds another woman.

Vision Maker Media, founded 45 years ago, "empowers and engages Native people to share stories. We envision a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate."

A local favorite, "Keep Talking" or "Niugaa Yugaa," is not in this year's film festival but can be viewed at PBS.org. The film focuses on four women fighting to save the Kodiak Alutiiq language, spoken fluently by



less than 40 elders.

"You know how the elders were abused when they spoke, it still goes on for some people and I'm one of them," 13-year-old Sadie tells the camera.

"I'm glad I'm learning," she says, between sobs.

Bricker is looking forward to the five week celebration which promotes American Indian, Alaska Native and worldwide indigenous films.

"I appreciate the Skagway Traditional Council staff for constantly looking for new and fun ways to educate people," Bricker said.

Register, watch trailers and view the film schedule at:

[https://visionmakermedia.org/online-film-fest/?fbclid=IwAR302V9kkY9yzzg-D\\_gC9\\_NCKRE6QTqAg-cWVvw\\_5P7nfBog84uN-FQC\\_eMjQ](https://visionmakermedia.org/online-film-fest/?fbclid=IwAR302V9kkY9yzzg-D_gC9_NCKRE6QTqAg-cWVvw_5P7nfBog84uN-FQC_eMjQ)

## Assembly waives commercial utility fees

By Melinda Munson

Skagway's assembly voted Aug. 20 to waive commercial utility fees from Oct. 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 to "mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financial stability of Skagway businesses."

Resolution 20-33R passed unanimously and forgives sewer, water and garbage fees for commercial properties, totalling approximately \$82,350.

"It's a very innovative way of helping the year-round businesses here," said Mayor Andrew Cremata.

Originally, Resolution 20-32R, the town's small business grant program, proposed to give businesses an extra

\$250 for each part-time winter employee and \$500 for each full-time winter employee. When more people than expected applied for the monthly \$1,000 CARES payments, the business program was awarded \$1 million, significantly less than the Skagway Development Corporation's \$2.5 million request.

The business grant program, passed on Aug. 6, will award a range of \$1,000 to \$6,000 to local businesses, depending on the number of applicants, with no per employee payments.

The deletion of the per employee payments was a disappointment to owners who run their businesses at a loss

during the off-season.

"Our shoulders can only hold so much," said Beth Smith, owner of three businesses that continue operating in the winter. "Businesses are taking the brunt of this burden," she said.

In response to business owner feedback, Borough Manager Brad Ryan suggested the utility waiver as a way to compensate businesses for the loss of the proposed per employee funding.

Resolution 20-33R can be found here.

[https://www.skagway.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/ordinance/44931/res\\_20-33r\\_waiving\\_commercial\\_utility\\_fees\\_oct20-mar21\\_2revrpb8-11-20.pdf](https://www.skagway.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/ordinance/44931/res_20-33r_waiving_commercial_utility_fees_oct20-mar21_2revrpb8-11-20.pdf)



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The following offices are on the ballot:

- Two (2) Assembly seats - for three (3) year terms each;
- Two (2) School Board seats - for three (3) year terms each.

### ELECTION HOURS

The polls will be open at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, and will close at 8:00 p.m. on the same day.

### VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

A person may vote in a municipal election only if the person:

- is qualified to vote in state elections under AS 15.05.010;
- has been a resident of the municipality for 30 days immediately preceding the election;
- has registered before the election as required under AS 15.07 and is not registered to vote in another jurisdiction.

### EARLY / ABSENTEE VOTING

Voters are able to vote early / absentee as follows:

- **Early in-person** in the Assembly chambers from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, between **Monday, September 21, 2020** and **Monday, October 5, 2020**.
- **Absentee by-mail.** Please submit an absentee ballot application to the borough clerk **EARLY** to allow for mailing time. The deadline to request absentee ballots by mail is 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, September 25, 2020**. Absentee ballot application forms are online at [www.skagway.org/clerksoffice/page/election-information](http://www.skagway.org/clerksoffice/page/election-information) or by request.

For more information visit [www.skagway.org](http://www.skagway.org) or contact the Borough Clerk at [e.deach@skagway.org](mailto:e.deach@skagway.org) or 907-983-9706.

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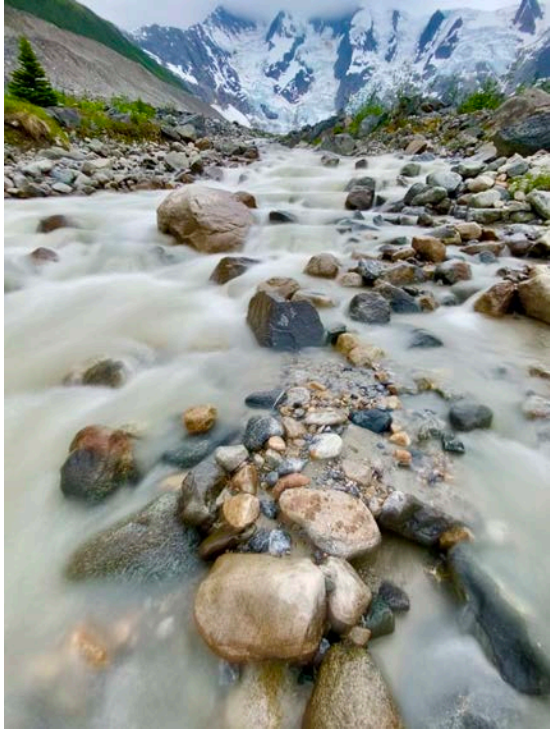
SPRING HOURS

M-F 8 am - 5 pm • Sat. 10 am - 4 pm . Closed Sunday

4th & Broadway .



Photos by  
*Reba*



I grew up in Oregon and came up to Alaska in 1996 when I was in college.

I immediately fell in love with the land, with the people and with the way of life. I wouldn't call myself a photographer, although that might change in the future.

I feel so fortunate to live in such a beautiful place and to share that through photographs with friends all over the world brings me happiness. I try to capture the essence of the moment. How a place makes me feel is just as important as the actual visual. Balance, clarity, perspective and a whole lotta love.

I lightly edit almost all of my photos but I like to keep them true to the moment and not exaggerate or stray too far from the actual photograph that I took. Mother Nature is a show-off and I just like to showcase her when I can.

-Reba Hylton









# SeaLife Center releases seals back to Southeast and Cook Inlet



Photos by Mickee McGuire provided by the Alaska SeaLife Center



NOAA SA-AKR 2019-01

## ASLC Press release

The Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) released five harbor seal pups from their Wildlife Response Program at Kenai North Beach on Aug. 27.

Six harbor seal pups were admitted to the center during the first half of June and were all successfully rehabilitated by the end of August. One of the seals was found stranded in Juneau and was able to be released near its geographic origin on Aug. 20. The other five, four females and one male, originated from Cook Inlet allowing them to be released together in Kenai yesterday.

All of the harbor seals admitted to the program arrived malnourished and dehydrated, but with no other significant injuries. ASLC's Wildlife Response staff worked around-the-clock to ensure these animals quickly recovered. To qualify for release, each seal had to be completely healed from any ailments, achieve a healthy body condition and demonstrate the ability to hunt live fish.

The ASLC frequently rehabilitates and releases harbor seals around the state, but it is rare to see this many animals returned to the wild all at the same time and to the same area.

"This year's pupping season was unique for our Wildlife Response Program. Five seals came to us from different places in Cook Inlet over a short period. It worked out nicely that they met their milestones at the same time allowing us to release all five on the same day, a first in our 20-plus year history of rehabilitating seal pups," stated Wildlife Response Curator, Jane Belovarac.

ASLC's practice is to return animals that are eligible for release back to the area they were found whenever possible. "We choose a release site based on where animals would have the greatest chance of success and best chance of fitting in, which is typically close to where they stranded in the first place," explained Director of Animal Health, Dr. Carrie Goertz.

## Police & Fire Blotter

Submitted by Skagway Police Department

### Aug. 14

Dispatch assisted a resident by calling in Skagway Bird Rescue to check a dead raven.

Fire personnel responded to a fire alarm on Broadway Street.

### Aug. 15

The fire department responded to an alarm on Broadway Street.

### Aug. 22

Dispatch assisted a resident by calling in the Skagway Bird Rescue to check an injured baby bird.

Dispatch assisted a resident by calling Skagway Bird Rescue to check an injured baby hawk.

Dispatch and EMS assisted a store owner in attempting to track a 5-foot-long orca helium balloon. The search was called off when the balloon floated into Denver Valley.

### Aug. 20

A large bear was spotted by a patrolling officer at 20th Ave and Alaska Street.

EMS, fire, police and Coast Guard personnel were mobilized for a search and rescue operation in Dyea to assist a resident stranded in the Taiya River.

### Aug. 21

Christine Bradford, 45, of Skagway was arrested for Assault in the Fourth Degree.

Christine Bradford, 45, of Skagway was arrested for Violating Conditions of Release.

EMS responded to a medical emergency.

## Coleen's Sweet Blueberry Bread

By Coleen Mielke. See her recipe blog at <http://coleensrecipes.blogspot.com>

This blueberry bread is easy, sweet, tasty and super moist. In fact, it stays moist for several days (if it lasts that long).

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup blueberries (I often used frozen)



Photo by Coleen Mielke

Mix flour, baking powder and salt and set aside. In another bowl, beat eggs, sugar, sour cream, vegetable oil, lemon zest and vanilla until smooth and blended.

Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and mix just until well blended.

Toss the blueberries with 1 tablespoon flour and then GENTLY fold them into the batter. Pour batter into parchment lined 9" x 5" loaf pan.

Bake in pre-heated 350 oven for 1 hour and 5 minutes (1 hour and 10 minutes if you are using frozen blueberries) or until toothpick tests clean. Let the finished bread sit in the pan for 20 minutes, then turn out onto cooling rack.



## Thomas Bernard Murray

Aug. 31, 1933 - July 25, 2020



Thom attended Holy Family Elementary School and graduated from Highline High School in Burien, Washington in 1951, then went on for a brief period of study at Seattle University.

He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1953 and was assigned to an air base in England. He returned home in 1957 to attend his father's funeral but his returning military flight to England crashed shortly after takeoff from Fort Dix, New Jersey, and he was seriously injured.

He spent the remainder of his enlistment in the hospital recovering from his injuries and struggling against an onset of osteomyelitis. His injuries left him with a permanently damaged right foot and lower leg which caused him difficulty throughout the rest of his life.

Thomas Bernard Murray passed away peacefully in Spokane, Washington on July 25, 2020. He was born Aug. 31, 1933 in Skagway Alaska, the third of four boys of William H. and Lillian M. (Peterson) Murray.

The family moved from Skagway to Kodiak, Alaska in 1941, to Anchorage in 1942 and then to Seattle in 1943.

## Obituaries

Following discharge from the Air Force, Thom secured a drafting position with The Boeing Company in Seattle, eventually moving into a quality assurance position. He married Michealle O'Brian in 1964 and they enjoyed a long, happy marriage in Burien until her passing in 2002.

During his later years at Boeing, and after his retirement, Thom and Michealle enjoyed raising purebred bulldogs and traveling the country to participate in dog shows. About two years after Michealle's passing, Thom went to Colville, Washington to visit Willy O'Brian (also called Lanny) – Michealle's oldest son from a previous marriage – and Willy's wife Cindy. Thom loved the area and surrounding countryside and decided to buy property and build a home there, us-

ing a design he and Michealle had previously created. He lived very happily in Colville among his dear neighbors and their families who had befriended him.

His favorite pastime while living in Colville, aside from weekly crocheting sessions with friends, was ocean cruises. Thom managed to get himself on a ship at least twice a year and he travelled to various parts of the world in the company of his close friend, Dave Vannet. He also spent many happy hours playing cards, chatting and enjoying holidays with his dearest friends, the Schrader family, in Colville.

Thom is survived by his brothers, Carl Murray, Dick Murray and his wife Judy Harrison Murray; his sister, Mary Murray Shelton and her wife, Amanda Kreglow; many be-

loved nieces, nephews, cousins and their families, and his neighbors-like-family, Mary Ann and Larry Schrader, their children and grandchildren, as well as many, many friends he made over the years who all thought of him as family. His sons, William (Willy) O'Brian and Michael "Doc" Murray, and another brother, William Lawrence Murray, predeceased him.

A memorial service for Thom will be held at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Colville on a date to be determined. His ashes will be interred next to Michealle's following a private family ceremony at Mt. Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA. Donations in his memory may be sent to Hospice House of Spokane, Washington.

## David Charles Stevens

Aug. 31, 1933 - July 25, 2020



come his lifelong passions, included duck hunting, fireworks, food preparation, small business and spending time with his dogs. His creativity and sense of humor would also be a constant throughout his life at work, travel and play.

After graduating from Appleton High School, Dave studied at the University of Minnesota Crookston for a degree in resource management and hotel, restaurant, and institute management. While there, Dave and his fellow student housemates generated many laughs with their fun-filled antics, stories of which Dave could call upon to make us laugh years later.

Dave's education continued over his lifetime. He received his bachelor's degree from Southwest State University in Marshall in hotel, restaurant and institution management and his master's in hospitality management at Florida International University in Miami in 1982.

In 1973, Dave's spirit of adventure took him to Canada where he found himself in a variety of challenging positions such as the night manager at Minaki Lodge, in Ontar-

io, and the assistant manager for Ponderosa Steakhouse in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It was here that Dave's mischievous spirit rose to new heights when he was ordered by his district manager to build a wooden western style fence in front of the restaurant, in minus 40-degree weather. Dave utilized his creative nature to complete the ridiculous assignment by having his crew freeze the posts in place with water, which worked fine, until the spring thaw. However, by the time the warmer temperatures arrived, Dave had left for greener pastures to work as an engineering assistant with the Province of Manitoba's Department of Natural Resources.

After two years of traveling Manitoba's north country, Dave left Canada in 1977 to begin the Alaska chapter of his life as the general manager of the Klondike Hotel in Skagway, Alaska. It was during this time in Skagway

that Dave won the opportunity for a guided excursion on the ice flows to hunt a walrus, the mounted head of which was always on display in his homes for the rest of his life.

In 1980, Dave was drawn to the warmer climate of Florida where he held the position as vice president for Camper-town. It was during his time in Florida working with RVs that Dave conceived the idea of Alaska-Yukon Caravans, a company that would provide RV owners with the opportunity to tour Alaska and the Yukon as part of a "wagon train" of like-minded adventure seekers. So, in 1983, he "staked his claim" to start his business and moved to Hyder, Alaska, where after almost a decade of caravanning up and down the west coast, he shifted businesses and took over as owner of the Canal Trading Post in Hyder.

Dave's thirst for new challenges saw him leave Hyder a few years later and be-

gin his travels to China and Greenland to explore opportunities and develop new ideas.

While hunting muskox in Greenland, he came up with the idea to create food product from Greenland seals and a processing factory in China. Dave continued to visit China over the last 20 years of his life, returning each year to his homestead in Louisburg. It was during these times in Louisburg where Dave could be found entertaining friends and neighbors with tales of his many travels and adventures. These storytelling sessions, which always generated much laughter, will be greatly missed by all of us who knew Dave and enjoyed his friendship over the years.

Dave is survived by his brother Dan of Appleton; nephew Ty of California; many long-time friends; and several cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents and several other relatives.

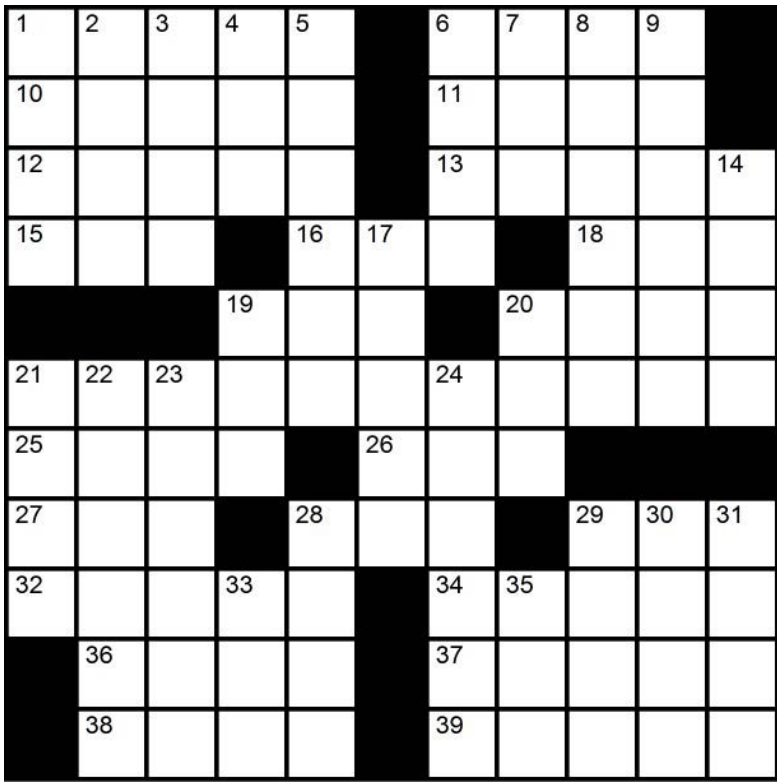
David Charles Stevens, age 69 of Louisburg, passed away Aug. 18, 2020 at Franklin Rehabilitation and Healthcare Centre from the effects of Lewy Body Dementia. Private services and interment will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be sent to [www.stephensfuneralservice.com](http://www.stephensfuneralservice.com). Stephens Funeral Service - Tracy Area Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

David (Dave to most and Boo to childhood friends) Charles Stevens, of Louisburg, the first of two children of Charles and Myrtle (nee Manthie) Stevens, was born on Oct. 6, 1950 in Denver, Colorado. Dave grew up in Appleton, Minnesota, where he followed his childhood pursuits, which would be-

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The best paper in town.  
[www.skagwaynews.com](http://www.skagwaynews.com)



# Family Fun Page - print and share



**Across**

- 1 Color of an unclouded sky
- 6 Memorable pop Mama
- 10 Immigration essentials
- 11 Aussie gemstone
- 12 Not capable
- 13 Later in this text
- 15 Outmoded taper's buy
- 16 Recede
- 18 Gone by
- 19 For each
- 20 Mogadishu-born model
- 21 Breakfast greeting
- 25 Musical phrase
- 26 Chisholm Trail state
- 27 The whole lot
- 28 Gave food

29 Sports org. producing "Deuce" magazine

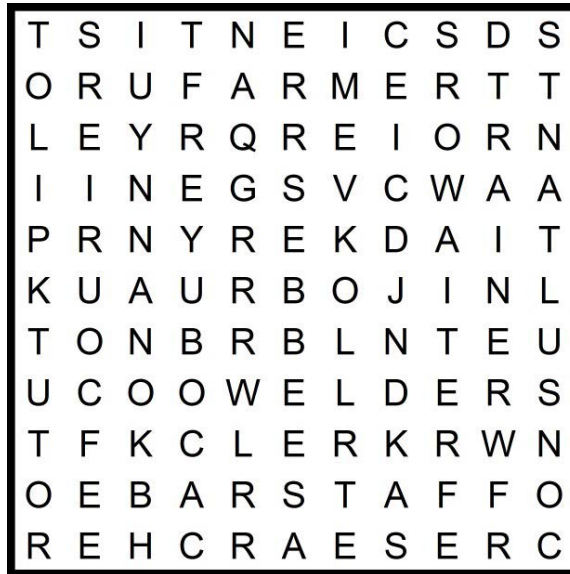
- 32 Picture border
- 34 Bury
- 36 Separate article
- 37 With a single voice
- 38 Wooden-soled Japanese shoe
- 39 Puts the plane down

**Down**

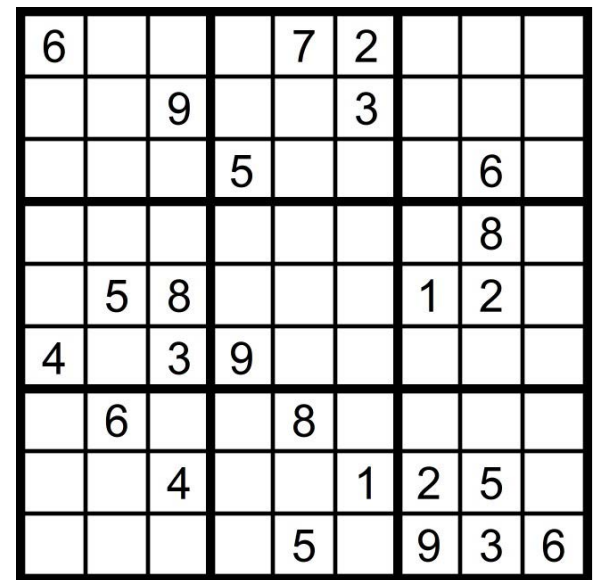
- 1 Tel follower in Israel
- 2 It galvanizes
- 3 Employer
- 4 Talk music
- 5 Respect
- 6 "Twelve Angry Men" star
- 7 Emulate

- 8 Italian sausage
- 9 Catchphrase
- 14 "The World of Suzie ---": 1960 film
- 17 Penniless
- 19 Email attachment format
- 20 Tavern
- 21 Match for Agassi
- 22 Roughneck's workplace
- 23 Not long ago
- 24 Tire type
- 28 Govt. disaster relief org.
- 29 100 cu. ft. for a nautical measure
- 30 Look after
- 31 America's C-in-C
- 33 Encountered
- 35 Cryptographic org.

**Wordsearch - Jobs**



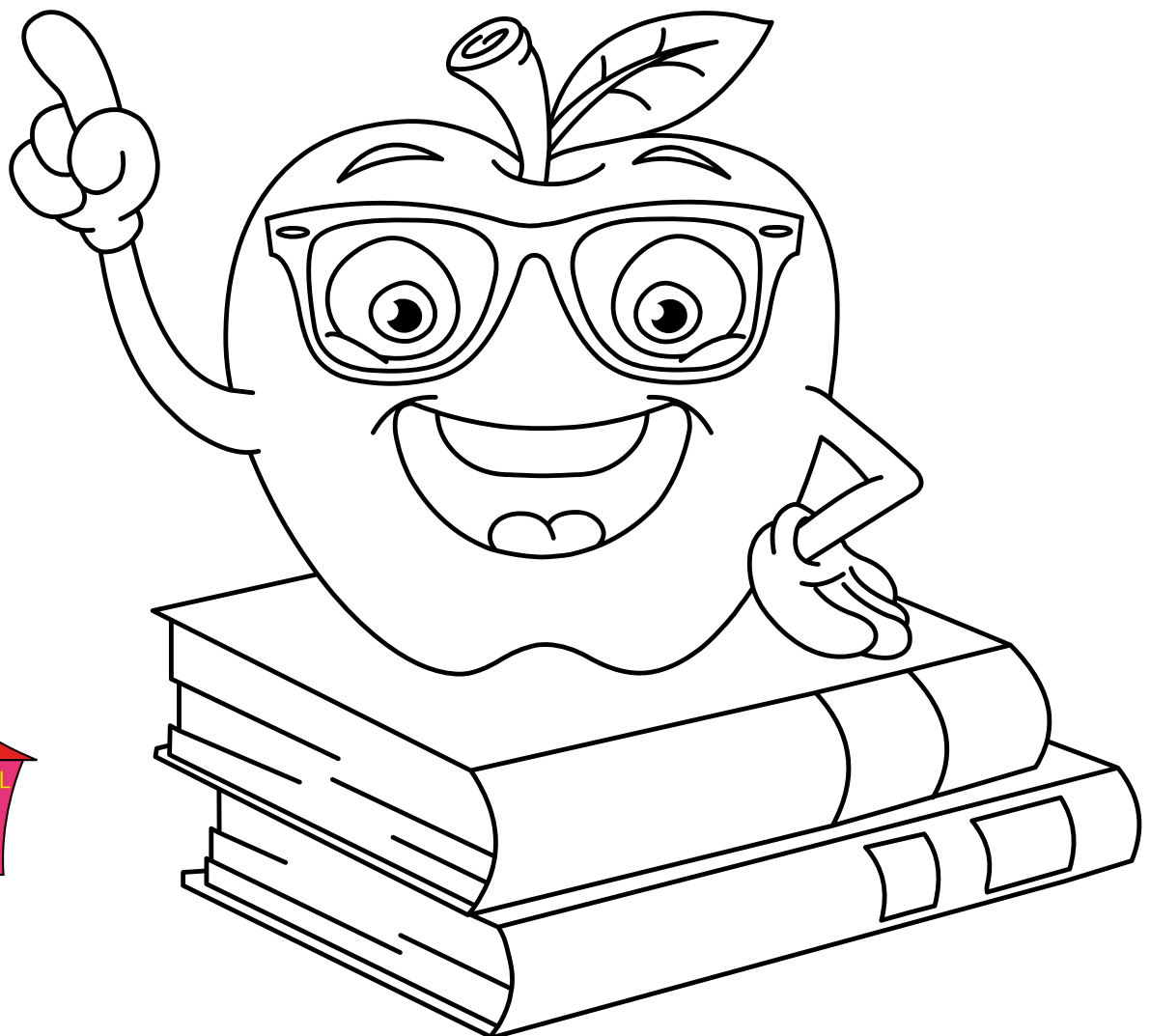
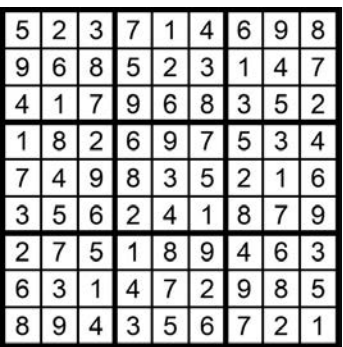
**Sudoku**



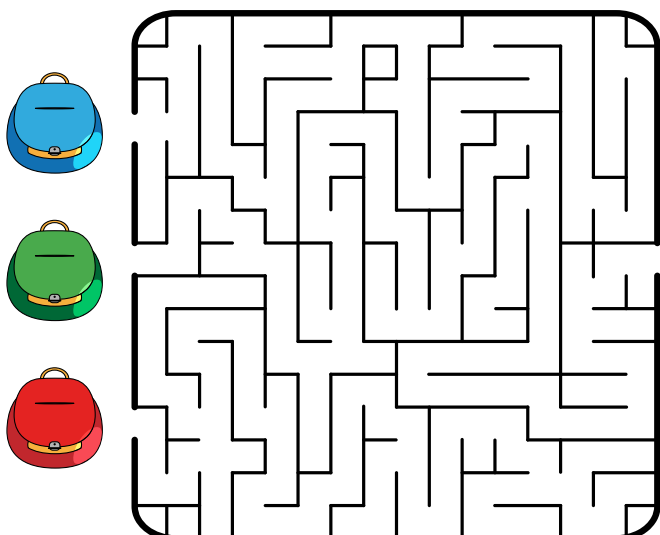
**Last issues's answers**



- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Bar staff  | Pilot       |
| Buyer      | Researcher  |
| Clerk      | Scientist   |
| Consultant | Stockbroker |
| Cook       | Surgeon     |
| Courier    | Trainer     |
| Driver     | Tutor       |
| Farmer     | Waiter      |
| Nanny      | Welder      |
| Nurse      |             |



Color Me!



Get the backpacks to school!



# CLASSIFIEDS

News Classified Ads cost 40 cents per word, \$4 minimum. Ads must be pre-paid unless advertiser has a business account with the newspaper. Skagway residents may drop off ad and payment at the News Depot. Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card. Out-of-town ads must be pre-paid with a credit card and should be phoned in to 907-983-2354. All ads appear in our on-line edition for a minimum of two weeks. Next deadline: Sunday, July 26, 2020

FREE PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS up to 25 words!  
CALL (907)983-2354 (restrictions apply)

### JOBS-OPPORTUNITIES

CAREGIVER NEEDED - 5 Days / Week - 5 Hours/ Day - Salary \$20 per Hour. For more details about the position, email Mr. Patrick (patdolan18@gmail.com)

### HOUSING-PROPERTY

HOME FOR SALE: 470 1st Ave 3BD/2BA home 1701 sq ft, with nice fenced yard, well maintained with many updates! Call Mandy Reigle, Latitude 58 Real Estate Group, 907-465-7555

For Sale: 2001 Main St, 2 Bdrm, 1 Ba, Pan Abode cedar house, w/800 SF detached, heated garage on a fenced corner lot. Priced to sell at \$235,000. Contact, ARA, David Brena, (M) 425-306-2020, dbrena5@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: Three parcels of land. First time on the market. One 40 ac. parcel on AB Mountain (the Skyline Trail goes through the NW corner), One 83.4 ac. parcel in Dyea along the Chilkoot Trail in the vicinity of the old Hosford sawmill, and one 2.18 ac. parcel below the incinerator near the Skagway River. Call for further details, ARA, David Brena, 907-983-2700. (11cb)

Year Round Apartment For Rent: 2 bed/2 bath, newer construction, fully furnished, deck, heated garage, energy efficient. No pets, no smoking. \$1,900/month + electric. Contact info@skagwaybrewing.com

FOR SALE: Duplex, three bedrooms and two baths on each side. Constructed 2019. Fridge, range, washer/dryer included, partially furnished. Call 907-723-2931.

### COMMERCIAL-PROPERTY

BUSINESS FOR SALE: Gold Digger Mine and Dine For more information see <https://www.skagway.forsale/>

DOWNTOWN SKAGWAY SPACE available for lease: 1200SF retail space next to Eagles Hall. Great location in the heart of Skagway's Historic District between 5th and 6th Ave. on Broadway. This is for the south retail in the Kelly Block

Building. Contact jimpjewell@gmail.com or text Jim at 907-612-0114.(1cb)

RETAIL SPACE ON BROADWAY for lease. See info at: [www.skagwayrealestate.net](http://www.skagwayrealestate.net). (1cb)

### MARKETPLACE

CHILKAT VALLEY NEWS & WHITEHORSE STAR available at Skagway News Depot & Books. (1cp)

### PERSONALS-MISC. SERVICES

FOOD BANK DONATIONS WELCOME. Donations may be sent to the Food Bank, PO Box 200, Skagway, AK 99840. The local Food Bank helps those in need with groceries. If you need assistance, or know anyone who needs assistance, at any time of year, call any pastor or 907-612-0313. (1cp)

### LEGAL AD



~ All units fully furnished  
~ NO PETS, No Smoking  
~ Lease now through March 31, 2021

Studio Apt: \$500/Month + Electric  
2 Bedroom/2 Bath: \$1000/Month + Electric  
4 Bedroom/4 Bath: \$1200/Month + Electric  
\*these units not available until Sept. 1

Contact info@skagwaybrewing.com



## BROADWAY BULLETIN BOARD

POSTED JULY 16, 2020

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

#### MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY

#### COMMUNITY FUNDING GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION AVAILABLE

The Municipality of Skagway has established a Community Funding Grant Program that provides funding for not-for-profit, non-profit, and charitable community organizations.

Applications for the funding period July 1, 2020 – December 30, 2020 Will be accepted on an open-ended basis.

The Community Funding Grant application is available online at [www.skagway.org/forms](http://www.skagway.org/forms), by request by emailing [t.rodio@skagway.org](mailto:t.rodio@skagway.org).



Because of the surge in coronavirus cases in Alaska, the clinic received state approval to expand rapid testing to all travelers. If you traveled outside of Skagway to an Alaskan community with a known active case of COVID-19 we recommend you test for COVID-19 once you return to Skagway. We also recommend a second test 7 to 14 days after the first result. Patients should minimize interaction per state guidelines until results of the second test are received. Out of state travel still falls under State Travel Mandate 10. See [www.covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/](http://www.covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/) for details. The clinic has been extremely busy with COVID-19 testing recently. Currently we are scheduling appointments from 9am to 3pm Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. We book up very quickly. Please plan accordingly and schedule your appointment ahead of time. Call the clinic at (907) 983-2255 to make an appointment.

### SKAGWAY WORSHIP DIRECTORY

Please contact each worship location for their updated COVID-19 schedule

**Assembly of God Church**  
8th & State • 907-983-2350

Sun. Worship.....11 a.m.  
Thu. Intercessory Prayer:6:30 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
5th & Main • 983-2260

Sun. Morning Worship .....10 a.m.  
Sun. Sunday School.....4 p.m.  
Wed. Women's Prayer .....7 a.m.  
Thur. Celebrate Recovery.....6 p.m.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

11th & State • 983-2518  
Sun. Sacrament Meeting...10 a.m.  
Sun. School/Primary ...11:10 a.m.  
Relief Society/Priesthood...12 p.m.

**St. Therese Catholic Church**  
9th & State • 983-2271

Sun. Mass.....5 p.m.  
Mass Mon. & Tues.....12:10 p.m.  
(when a priest is available)

**Life Link Fellowship Bible Church**

11th and Main • 907-612-0121  
Sat. Night Worship .....7 p.m.  
Sunday Service.....11 a.m.

### RECREATION CTR SCHED

Skagway Recreation Center •  
12th & Main • 983-2679  
Cardio • Weight Room • Locker Rooms • Showers • Rock Wall

The Recreation Center is closed for repairs and construction.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### Library Hours:

by Appointment  
W, Th, F 12 - 6 p.m.  
Sat. 1 - 5 p.m.  
Call 983-2665 or email [library@skagway.org](mailto:library@skagway.org)

#### Dahl Clinic Winter Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed Sat. and Sun. For after-hours emergencies, please dial 911.

#### Incinerator Hours

T, Th, Sa. 1 - 3 p.m.

#### Skagway Museum

Closed for the season

#### Border stations:

7 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Call each station for specifics.

#### Ferry Terminal Hours

M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

See [www.skagway.org](http://www.skagway.org) for borough meeting updates.

Email Updates & New Events: [editor@skagwaynews.com](mailto:editor@skagwaynews.com)

## SKAGWAY WEATHER

### NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OBSERVATIONS FOR PREVIOUS 24-HOUR PERIOD BEFORE 7 A.M.

DATE MAX MIN PREC

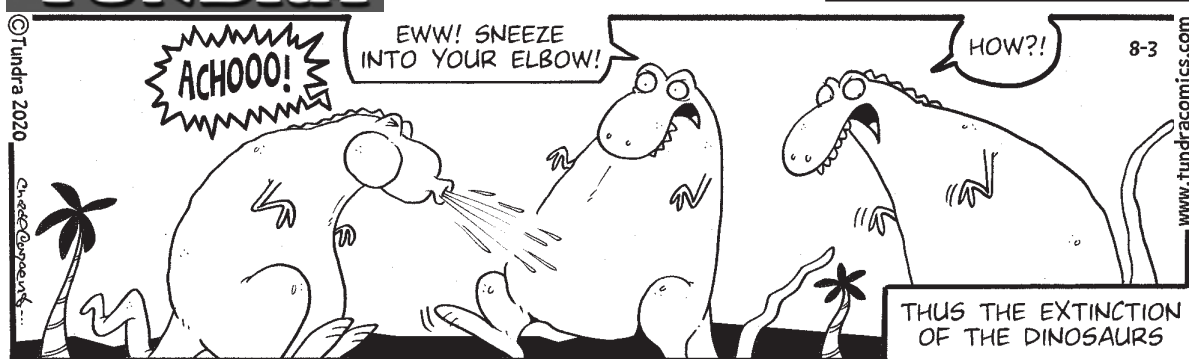
Weather Watch 7/15 -8/12

8/1	82	53	.21 in
8/2	70	55	.34 in
8/3	65	54	.14 in
8/4	65	54	.02 in
8/5	58	52	.16 in
8/6	63	53	trace
8/7	65	53	.07 in
8/8	60	53	.07 in
8/9	60	52	.29 in
8/10	60	52	.63 in
8/11	60	51	trace
8/12	60	51	trace
8/13	62	52	trace
8/14	60	46	-
8/15	59	49	.09 in
8/16	57	47	.27 in
8/17	58	47	.10 in
8/18	65	51	.13 in
8/19	62	47	.02 in
8/20	65	48	-
8/21	69	48	.25 in
8/22	63	53	.50 in
8/23	65	53	.05 in
8/24	57	53	.36 in
8/25	60	53	.01 in
8/26	60	52	.02 in



PHONE:907-983-2259

### Chad Carpenter's TUNDRA





# Why are Alaska's salmon shrinking? Team seeks answers

By Mary Catharine Martin, *The Salmon State*

Alaskans who have fished for salmon consistently over the years know it: Alaska's salmon, especially king salmon, are getting smaller. Now, a new study, published Aug. 19 in the journal *Nature Communications* by lead author Krista Oke, a post-doctoral fellow with the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; senior author Eric Palkovacs, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of California Santa Cruz; and an international team of co-authors, many of them also based in Alaska, delves into why that is — and what it means.

## Salmon are getting smaller

Over the last 60 years, the size of Alaska's salmon have declined, though there were also periods of slight recovery. Around the year 2000, however, size declines intensified, and in 2010, they began accelerating. The size change was most extreme for Chinook salmon — most likely because they're the largest and tend to stay out in the ocean the longest — and in regions that historically have older, larger Chinook salmon returning, like the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. The average size of Chinook salmon in the Arctic, Yukon and Kuskokwim area, as well as Southcentral Alaska, was on average 10 percent smaller after 2010 than it was before 1990.

Some specific populations declined as much as 20 percent on average.

Overall, the length of Chinook salmon has gone down 8% on average between 1990 and 2010; coho salmon length has gone down by 3.3%; chum salmon by 2.4%; and sockeye salmon by 2.1%. That size decline was driven by fish spending less time in the ocean and returning younger.

"Some populations lost multiple years, on average," Palkovacs said.

There isn't much size data out there for pink salmon, so that's the one species they didn't look into.

## What does that mean?

The study identified several main consequences of smaller salmon. The first: smaller females mean fewer eggs.

"That means to get the same population productivity, you need more fish in the population," Palkovacs said. "Fixed escapement policies assume a certain number of females is going to continue to produce the same number of juveniles. But if females are smaller, it means that same number of females is going to be producing a smaller number of eggs than in the past."

From a subsistence perspective, "if you have a limited harvest opportunity and the fish you get are smaller than what you used to get, it really does mean fewer meals in your freezer for the winter," Oke pointed out.

From a commercial perspective, smaller fish earn fishermen less money — because it takes more salmon to get the same amount of poundage, it takes more time to process a fish, and because larger fish can command more per pound.

From an ecosystem perspective, smaller salmon transport fewer marine-derived nutrients into the ecosystem.

From a resilience perspective, losing certain age classes means less resilience in the face of environmental change.



Photo by Andrew Hendry

A female sockeye salmon that spent three years in the ocean (top) compared to a female that spent just two years in the ocean in Pick Creek, Alaska. One year in the ocean makes a big difference — which is why salmon returning younger has caused such a dramatic decline in body size.

## Why is this happening — and what can humans do to stop it?

"We didn't find any single smoking gun that was able to explain these changes across species and across regions," Oke said. "It really seems to be a cumulative effect of smaller impacts across lots of different factors. Different species respond differently to different specific drivers."

That being said, climate change and ocean competition from high abundances of wild and hatchery-enhanced salmon, especially pink salmon, contributed to salmon body size declines.

They also looked at size-selective fishing, but found that while it may impact certain populations, it likely can't account for the larger trends across Alaska's river systems and species.

Predation from marine mammals like killer whales is a potential cause that they didn't have enough data to look at fully, but that "probably is not a broad-scale driver but may be having impacts on certain populations," Palkovacs said.

In Washington, for example, where salmon populations are a fraction of historic levels, killer whales selecting larger Chinook salmon would likely have a larger impact on the population now than it did when they engaged in the same practice 150 years ago.

"All of these factors matter to different degrees across different species, but they're all generally pushing (salmon) to be smaller," Palkovacs said. "That means there's no magic lever we can pull to change the trends. On the other hand, it also means maybe the trends will be moderated by the fact that there's this multitude of factors operating all the time. Everybody shares a little bit of the responsibility, so it almost suggests that it's a collective problem that requires a collective solution."

## Author's note

The study, "Recent declines in salmon body size impact ecosystems and fisheries," was made possible via a collaborative initiative through the National Center for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis (NCEAS). The initiative was called SASAP, the State of Alaska Salmon and People project. It brought people together from across multiple disciplines and backgrounds. One important part

of the SASAP initiative was the inclusion and involvement of indigenous voices and knowledge, which authors said added a lot to the study.

It was also only possible because Alaska Department of Fish & Game biologists made 60 years of detailed data on salmon size, age and sex across many different river systems available to the researchers — and because data scientists at NCEAS crunched that data into a huge dataset the authors could analyze. The bigger the data set — and this one was very big, with 12.5 million records of four species of salmon measured for age, sex and length, over 60 years across more than a thousand locations — the more difficult it is to work with.

That synthesized data set is now up online and available for anyone to use, analyze, and ask new questions.

Read the full study here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-17726-z>

For more information about the study and about SASAP, go to <https://alaskasalmonandpeople.org/topics/the-declining-size-and-age-of-salmon/>.

Mary Catharine Martin is the communications director of *SalmonState*.

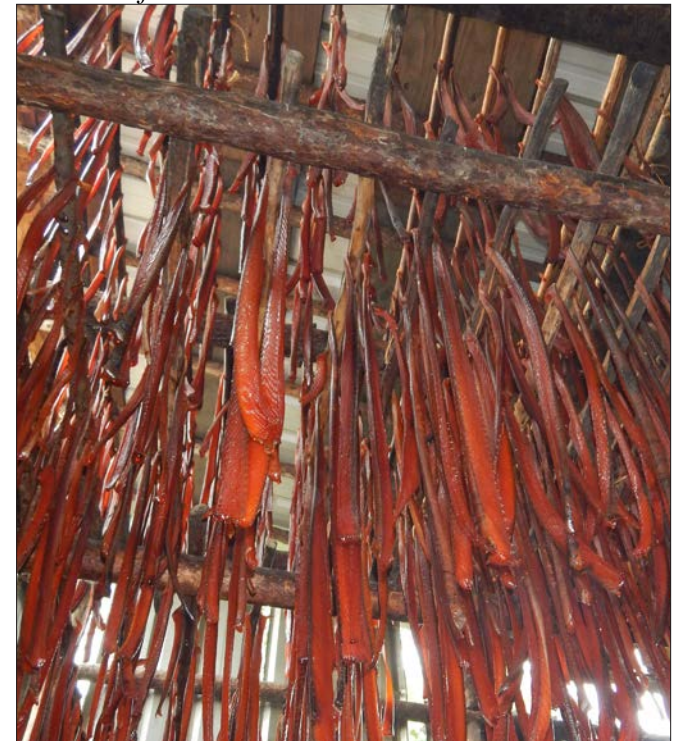


Photo by Peter Westley

Salmon strips dry on a rack on the Yukon River, a place where the impacts of shrinking Chinook salmon have been among the most dramatic for subsistence users.